

## Oil and gas

Oil and gas (petroleum) are important to the New Zealand economy. Oil is already a major export earner for the country, and gas is an important input into our domestic economy.

The government wants New Zealand to be a highly attractive global destination for petroleum exploration and production investment, so that we can develop the full potential of our petroleum resources. Significant discoveries will help boost New Zealand's foreign earnings and domestic gas supplies.

The government is focused on striking a balance between protecting the environment and economic development. It is important that all petroleum exploration and production activities have rigorous environmental and safety controls to manage risks, prevent harm to people and to minimise effects on the environment.

- Read the [New Zealand Energy Strategy](#).
- Read about [energy development and the environment](#).
- [New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals website](#).

### [Petroleum Action Plan](#)

The aim of the eight actions of the Petroleum Action Plan is to maximise the gains from the responsible development of New Zealand's petroleum resources.

### [Petroleum expert reports](#)

These reports were commissioned to gain a better understanding of New Zealand's petroleum resources.

### [Review of the Crown Minerals Act regime](#)

The government is undertaking a review of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 regime.

### [Improving information on petroleum reserves](#)

Action 4 of the Petroleum Action Plan: the government consulted on options for improving information provision in 2010. This action is being progressed through the review of the Crown minerals regime.

### [Offshore petroleum health, safety and environmental \(HSE\) legislation review](#)

Action 8 of the Petroleum Action Plan: completed in 2010, progress on review recommendation is being made through a number of initiatives.